

"The fire of literacy is created by the sparks between a child, a book and the person reading." - Mem Fox



Tips for Any Age

Why we should all be reading aloud to children (TED Talk)

Read 15 Minutes Everyday

1

15 minutes everyday, increases your child's vocabulary and knowledge, builds a bond and provides enriching engagement, fosters a love of books and reading.

Questioning

2

Don't make the book experience be about right and wrong. Ask your child "friendly questions", where there is no right answer, to encourage thinking and speaking, but don't overwhelm them with too many questions.

3

The Power of Silence

It's in silence that your child has the opportunity to process and think of responses, questions, and have the chance to voice their words. Use it to your advantage!

Infants and Toddlers

Main goal to build language understanding as children will only repeat words they have heard.

Initiating Social Games

Chase, rolling a ball or peek-a-boo are all social games.

Imitates Movement

Your child imitates movements such as clapping his hands to copy you. He understands and plays the "How Big?" game by putting his hands out wide.

Social Referencing

Your child wants you to watch him! He will keep looking back to check.

Points, Gestures, and Push/Pull

Your child is communicating by pointing to show you things, gesturing to wave bye-bye or indicating that he wants to be picked up, and taking you by the hand to lead you around the house. Words will start around age 1.

Preschoolers

Children learn to talk by talking, they learn to read by talking AND reading. The number of words that a child knows and uses is a good predictor of his or her future reading ability.

Print-Rich Environments

Print-rich environments provide opportunities and tools for children to see and use written language for a variety of purposes.

Word Play

Listen and talk with your preschooler as much as you can. You can get your child to sing, march, dance and make up songs, poems, and stories.

Make-Believe

Encourage lots of make-believe games and play. Many preschoolers love to play school, dress up or set up a gas station for cars. If your child doesn't seem interested in make-believe play, try to get him started.



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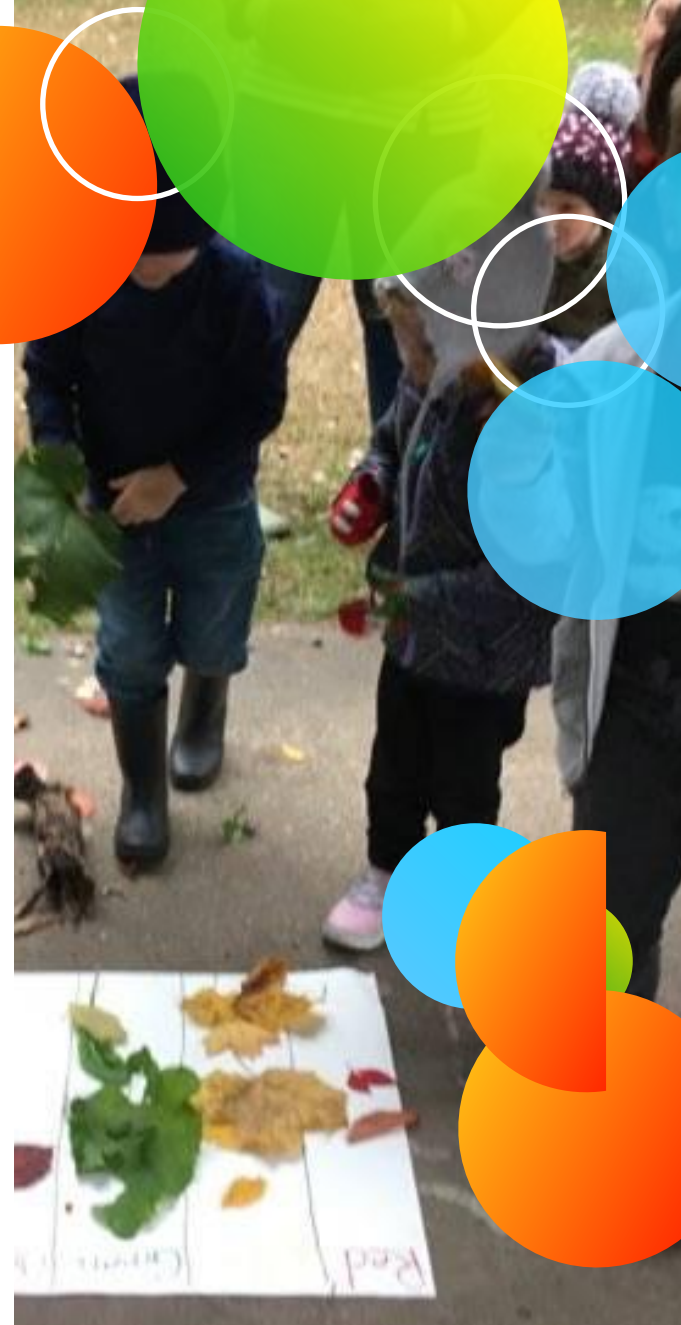
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Want to Learn More?

- Space to Grow: Silence Promotes Vocabulary Development by Amanda Holliday
<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/silence-promotes-vocabulary-development>
- From Babbles to Books Supporting Language and Literacy Development in Early Childhood - Brookes Publishing
- Play to Talk by J. MacDonald and P. Stoika
 - Connect with MAPS Early Learning if you would like to check out this resource!!
- ReadingRockets.org
- Reading Right From the Start - Teaching Strategies Parent Guide by T. Bickart and D.T. Dodge
- talkwithmebaby.org



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